

Council

CNL(09)20

***Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans***

EU - Ireland

Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2008

The Guidelines for the preparation of 'Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', NSTF(06)10 (copy attached) indicate that the primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year. In addition, details of any significant changes to the status of stocks, new factors affecting stocks, any changes to the management regime in place, and any changes to the Implementation Plan should be included in the report. Details of actions taken in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention are also needed by the Council. **Please provide the following information to the Secretariat by 22 April 2009**

Section 1: Details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan.

In 2008 catch advice was combined for several rivers where it was considered that they were likely to be the same stock. Therefore, on the basis of the best information available on catches, counts or other estimates and application of a forecast model to these data, the Standing Scientific Committee advises that in 2009:

- ❖ There are 57 stocks which will have an identifiable surplus over the Conservation Limit and a harvest fishery can proceed in 2009.
- ❖ In addition, there are 13 Multi-Sea Winter stocks or "spring salmon" stocks where there will be a surplus over the 2SW Conservation Limit and therefore a harvest of spring fish is possible.
- ❖ There are 23 stocks which do not have an identifiable surplus over the Conservation Limit. In this instance, there are no harvest options available which will allow a 75% chance that the Conservation Limit will be met and no harvest fisheries should take place on these rivers.
- ❖ There are also three 2SW or "spring salmon" stocks which are also failing to meet Conservation Limits.
- ❖ In addition to the main fisheries above there are 59 small river stocks where the annual average rod catch has been less than 10 salmon since 2001 and which are not meeting their Conservation Limits. The combined rod catch from these rivers is less than 0.5% of the current estimated national rod catch. Although these are insignificant fisheries, their stocks are important as spawning populations in their own right which must be maintained for biodiversity as required under the EU Habitats Directive. The Standing Scientific Committee advise that no harvest fisheries should take place on these stocks until such time as additional information becomes available to assess stock status relative to their Conservation Limits.

Section 2: A description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches.

Please see Appendix I for details on changes in the status of stocks.

- (a) the provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2008 (including Foyle half catch) = 88t (33,140 salmon approximately)
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes (including Foyle half catch) for 2007 = 84t (30,946 salmon approximately)
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2008 = 9t
- (d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2008 = approximately 13,300 salmon

Section 3: A description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

No new factors identified

Section 4: The primary purpose of the information provided under item 4 is to provide an account of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plans with regard to Management of salmon fisheries; Aquaculture and related activities & other influences affecting salmon abundance and diversity.

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
Fisheries Management		
Establishment of River Specific Conservation Limits	As for 2007	All rivers have pre-assigned Conservation Limits
Evaluation of stock size in individual rivers in relation to Conservation Limits (collection of catch and biological data)	As for 2007	Ongoing
Fisheries only on single stocks in rivers and estuaries which are shown to be meeting Conservation Limits	As for 2007	Ongoing
Implementation of legislation restricting seasons, gears, baits etc	Updated for 2008	Ongoing
Implementation of river specific bye-laws	Updated for 2008 based on river specific assessment	Ongoing
Enforcement of legislation	Regional Fisheries Boards and Irish Naval and Air Corps patrols	Ongoing
Increase in monitored rivers and investment in assessment technology and methodologies	Several more fish counters installed in 2008. Work continued on electro-fishing.	Ongoing

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
Measures to minimize the impact of Aquaculture and other related factors		
Monitoring of sea lice on commercial fin fish farms on regular basis (14 times a year)	Inspections carried out on all farms for 2008	Ongoing
Monitor commercial & recreational fisheries annually for escapes of salmon	-	Ongoing
Action plan developed for large scale escapes	-	Ongoing
Evaluation of new licences	-	Ongoing
Fish Health Monitoring	EU Directive 2006/88/EC was implemented in Ireland on 1st August 2008, through the European Communities (Health of Aquaculture Animals and Products) Regulations 2008 (SI 261 of 2008).	Ongoing
Review of applications for the transfer of aquaculture stocks between sites	New obligations on transporter under SI 261 above.	Ongoing
In May 2008 the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Food published "A strategy for improved pest control on Irish salmon farms". A National Implementation Group is due to report on ongoing progress and with recommendations on further steps in June 2009.	The strategy intends to build on the existing monitoring and treatment regime through intensifying and revitalizing the single bay management approach and making it central to national policy. It will identify further treatment options and options to optimize the use of available licensed salmon farm sites from a sea lice management perspective.	Ongoing
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Marine Survival	Poor marine survival noted in 2008. This is being monitored nationally and also under SALSEA MERGE, an EU funded programme.	Ongoing (full report on SALSEA due for publication in 2011).

Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification;

Current management actions are based on the specific bye-laws which have been put in place for 2009 and these are similar to 2008. This includes restrictions on

- seasons (as in 2008)
 - gear types (as in 2008)
 - baits (in some areas)
 - rivers which can be fished (both harvest and catch and release fisheries) see previous.
- Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations, 2008 (S.I. No. 586 2008) provide for, among other things, the quotas of fish that can be harvested by commercial fishing engines and rod and line from those rivers identified in Schedule 2. The Regulations also provide for the use of brown tags in specified rivers which are identified in Schedule 4.
- Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. C.S. 301, 2008 (Closed Rivers) prohibits angling for salmon and sea trout (over 40 cm) in specified rivers that are below 65% of their conservation limits as identified by the SSC.
- Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. 845, 2008 (Bag limit) provides that the existing annual bag limit of 10 fish being either salmon or sea trout (over 40 cm) per angler for the 2008 season continues in rivers above their Conservation Limits. This Bye-Law provides for a season bag limit of 3 fish in the period 1 Jan to 11 May, a daily bag limit of 3 fish from 12 May to 31 August and a daily bag limit of 1 fish from 1 September to the end of the season. The Bye-law also provides for the use of single hooks and prohibits the use of worms as bait once the specified number of fish has been caught in the specified periods. This reduces fish mortality rate. The only changes in this Bye-law relate to the rivers included in the schedule to the Bye-law.
- Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. 846, 2008 (Catch & Release) provides for catch and release in respect of Salmon and Sea Trout (over 40 cm) in rivers that are meeting at least 65% of their Conservation Limit as identified by the SSC or where the Manager believes that to open the river for catch and release would provide greater enforcement as a result of the presence of anglers on the banks of the river. The Byelaw also provides for the use of single hooks and prohibits the use of worms as bait in angling for salmon and sea trout over 40 cm. This reduces fish mortality rate.
- A number of river specific conservation measures were also introduced by way of byelaw.

Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures;

None

Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles;

None

Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention;

None

Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 including imposition of adequate penalties for violations;

None

Section 5: Details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.

No changes proposed.

Changes in the status of stocks.

Stocks (by river and age group where available) which will be exploited in 2009 are shown in detail in Tables 1 and 2. Stocks below Conservation Limits are shown in Table 3 (catch and release is permitted if 65% of the Conservation limit is met). The status of small rivers (i.e. with less than an average of 10 rod caught per annum) is shown in Table 4. The status of impounded rivers is given in Table 5. In all tables, Conservation Limits (i.e. the stock size which produces maximum sustainable yield S_{msy}), status of stocks and fishery type if applicable are shown.

Table 1. Rivers above Conservation Limits. Forecasted returns, Conservation Limits and Estimated Surplus above the required Conservation Limit for 1SW and MSW stocks combined unless otherwise indicated.

District	River	Estimated 2009 Returns	CL SMSY	Estimated Surplus 2009
Dundalk	Fane	816	543	273
Wexford	1SW Slaney (counter)	956	923	33
Waterford	Nore	12423	11958	465
Lismore	1SW Blackwater (counter), Glenshelane, Finisk	16199	12103	4095
Cork	Owennacurra	257	179	78
Cork	Lower Lee (Cork)	3340	1184	2156
Cork	1SW Bandon (counter)	2526	1742	784
Cork	Argideen	456	391	65
Cork	Ilen	1292	1014	278
Cork	Mealagh	265	88	176
Cork	Owvane	478	401	77
Cork	Coomhola	440	306	134
Cork	Glengarriff	304	229	75
Cork	Adrigole	193	169	24
Kerry	Kealincha	143	124	19
Kerry	Lough Fada	105	91	14
Kerry	Sheen	673	600	73
Kerry	Roughly	2515	1245	1270
Kerry	Blackwater (counter)	960	539	421
Kerry	Sneem	1114	371	742
Kerry	1SW Waterville (counter)	1008	336	672
Kerry	Inney	725	649	76
Kerry	1SW Caragh	1475	872	602
Kerry	1SW Laune and Cottoners	7665	2555	5110
Kerry	Owenmore	211	102	108
Shannon	1SW Feale (counter), Galey and Brick	8115	3491	4624
Shannon	Mulkear (counter)	7529	6284	1244
Galway	1SW Corrib (counter)	11234	7589	3644
Connemara	Cashla (counter)	1046	349	697
Connemara	L.Na Furnace	67	66	0
Connemara	Screebe trap	329	155	174
Connemara	Ballynahinch (counter)	2385	1088	1296
Ballinakill	Owenglin	783	372	411
Ballinakill	Dawros	1567	582	984
Ballinakill	Culfin	282	144	138
Ballinakill	Erriff (counter)	2015	1300	716
Ballinakill	1SW Bundorragha	486	162	324
Ballinakill	Common Embayment Killary	2501	1506	995
Bangor	1 SW Newport R. (Lough Beltra)	691	319	372
Bangor	Srahmore (Burrishoole traps)	785	615	170
Bangor	1SW Owenduff (Glenamong)	1949	925	1024
Bangor	1SW Owenmore/Muinhin (counter)	4314	2136	2178
Bangor	Common Embayment	6263	2602	3661
Ballina	1SW Moy	40242	16974	23268
Ballina	Easky	2856	1297	1559
Sligo	Ballysadare (counter)	6923	5098	1825
Sligo	1 SW Garvogue (Bonnet)	1175	957	218
Sligo	Drumcliff	621	474	147
Ballyshannon	Duff	1491	1182	309
Ballyshannon	1 SW Drowes	2113	704	1409
Ballyshannon	Eske (counter)	861	823	38
Ballyshannon	Eany (counter)	2548	1740	808
Ballyshannon	Glen	1767	957	809
Letterkenny	Owenea and Owentocker	3418	2231	1187
Letterkenny	1SW Gweebarra	1014	445	569
Letterkenny	Gweedore (Crolly R.)	813	325	488
Letterkenny	Clady	684	515	169
Letterkenny	Tullaghobegly	312	226	87
Letterkenny	Crana	1802	1119	683

Table 2. MSW Rivers above Conservation Limits. Forecasted Returns, Conservation Limits and Estimated Surplus above the required Conservation Limit for MSW stocks only.

District	Percentiles	Estimated 2009 Returns	CL SMSY	Estimated Surplus 2009
Lismore	2SW Blackwater (counter)	1339	1000	338
Cork	2SW Bandon (counter)	448	332	116
Kerry	2SW Waterville (counter)	171	57	114
Kerry	2SW Caragh	410	234	176
Kerry	2SW Laune	1113	715	397
Shannon	2SW Feale (counter)	1516	842	674
Galway	2SW Corrib (counter)	1184	843	341
Ballinakill	2SW Bundorragha	72	24	48
Bangor	2SW Owenduff (Glenamong)	461	389	73
Bangor	2SW Owenmore/Muinhin (counter)	825	275	550
Ballina	2SW Moy	3266	1188	2078
Ballyshannon	2SW Drowes	620	302	318
Letterkenny	2SW Gweebarra	190	118	72

Table 3a. Status of rivers below Conservation Limits ranked by the % CL attainment.

District	River	CL SMSY	% of CL
Letterkenny	Ray	433	97
Dundalk	Castletown	197	97
Ballinakill	Owenwee (Belclare)	378	96
Ballinakill	Bunowen	619	91
Waterford	Colligan	338	86
Waterford	Suir, Clodiagh, Lingaun	15772	85
Ballinakill	Carrownisky	365	84
Bangor	Glenamoy	630	78
Drogheda	Boyne (counter)	13831	69
Letterkenny	Lackagh	1083	61
Waterford	Black Water	346	54
Kerry	Croanshagh	301	53
Kerry	Maine	1487	41
Ballina	Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown)	1261	40
Waterford	Barrow and Pollmounty	12118	40
Dublin	Dargle	639	35
Shannon	Fergus	2391	30
Letterkenny	Leannan	3619	28
Lismore	Bride	1379	25
Dundalk	Glyde	2172	22
Dublin	Liffey (counter)	4391	19
Shannon	Maigue	3907	17
Dundalk	Dee (counter)	2410	13

Table 3b. Status of 2SW salmon rivers below Conservation Limits ranked by the % CL attainment.

District	Percentiles	CL SMSY	% of CL
Sligo	2SW Garvogue (Bonnet)	957	67
Bangor	2SW Newport R. (Lough Beltra)	319	62
Wexford	2SW Slaney (counter)	2769	37

Table 4. Small rivers with less than 10 salmon caught per annum on average (period 2001 to 2005).

District	River	CL SMSY	% of CL
Dundalk	Flurry	123	44
Dublin	Vartry	189	54
Wexford	Owenavorrhagh	810	49
Wexford	Avoca	2959	49
Waterford	Corock R	734	45
Waterford	Owenduff	201	45
Waterford	Tay	278	45
Waterford	Mahon	442	45
Lismore	Tourig	90	40
Lismore	Womanagh	293	40
Lismore	Lickey	115	40
Kerry	Carhan	93	71
Kerry	Cloonee	75	61
Kerry	Owenreagh	106	61
Kerry	Finnihy	141	55
Kerry	Lee	586	55
Kerry	Milltown	83	55
Kerry	Emlaghmore	73	55
Kerry	Emlagh	130	55
Kerry	Owenshagh	324	43
Kerry	Ferta	197	74
Kerry	Owenascaul	193	57
Kerry	Behy	142	73
Kerry	Feohanagh	157	56
Shannon	Owenagarney	814	52
Shannon	Skivaleen	372	52
Shannon	Deel	2462	52
Shannon	Aughyvackeen	226	52
Shannon	Doonbeg	426	53
Shannon	Inagh	1033	36
Shannon	Annageeragh	302	53
Galway	Clarinbridge	63	52
Galway	Knock	123	51
Galway	Kilcolgan	1682	54
Galway	Aille (Galway)	76	53
Galway	Owenboliska R (Spidda	550	52
Bangor	Muingnabo	351	54
Bangor	Owengarve R.	194	54
Ballina	Brusna	1113	38
Ballina	Leaffony	218	38
Ballina	Ballinglen	396	38
Sligo	Grange	356	61
Ballyshannon	Owenwee (Yellow R)	184	77
Ballyshannon	Abbey	276	56
Ballyshannon	Laghy	479	56
Ballyshannon	Oily	549	72
Ballyshannon	Bungosteen	418	57
Ballyshannon	Ballintra (Murvagh R).	407	52
Letterkenny	Bracky	305	85
Letterkenny	Glenagannon	355	59
Letterkenny	Mill	272	58
Letterkenny	Isle (Burn)	510	58
Letterkenny	Straid	196	58
Letterkenny	Donagh	418	58
Letterkenny	Clonmany	465	58
Letterkenny	Culoort	223	58
Letterkenny	Swilly	1083	30
Letterkenny	Owenamarve	160	61
Letterkenny	Glenna	207	59

Table 5. Stocks above large rivers impounded for hydro-electric schemes. Counts are average counts for the most recent 5 years with the exception of the Liffey (Islandbridge) which is the most recent 4 years.

River	Wetted Area U/S Dams	Total CL	1SW CL	2SW CL	Average Count
Shannon	30,895,619	49,524	45,909	3,729	707
Erne	6,457,264	16,554	15,345	1,247	1445
Liffey	2,308,361	4,391	4,062	329	1157
Lee	1,923,476	2,789	2,585	210	57

The expected extent and timescale of effects

The extent to which the closure of the Irish mixed stock fishery has affected several specific stocks where counts can be made is shown below. It is clear that the majority of rivers in 2007 and 2008 showed increased escapement. These increases were only modest in some instances and some of these remain below their conservation limits. Other rivers showed considerable increases which allow them to reach their conservation limits if this was not already the case.

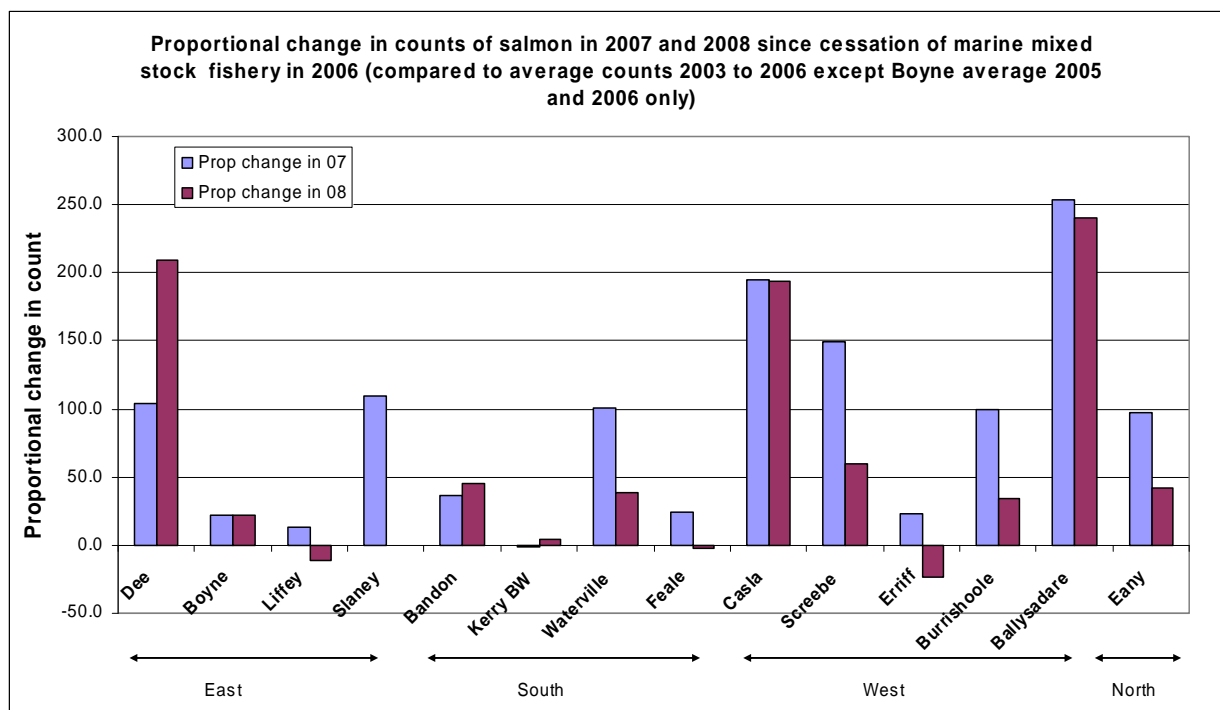


Figure 1: The extent of changes in 2007 and 2008 for individual populations following Implementation of Ireland's salmon management plan.